Dear sister Maria

Lodi Nov. 7. 1837

We concluded a long time since to write you two long letters in a year & believe it is a little more than six months since we sent the last one; we have waited some to receive the curiosities of which you wrote in your last & now they have arrived I sit down immediately to endeavor to express the gratitude I feel for your kindness, in sending those articles, from which we can obtain some ideas, of the manners & customs of the people among whom you dwell - the articles of domestic use look to us rather awkward, the umbrella, shoes, shears &c are great curiosities, but the gods they worship, their heathenism is most deplorable! no wonder your hearts are pained to see men, with souls destined to an immortal existence, so grovelling as to bow down & worship such insignificant images as their household deities are - truely we realize but little the miserable condition of the heathen; could the whole body of American christians witness for a little time, the misery & degradation that surrounds you I am constrained to believe the A.B.C.F.M. would no longer suffer for money to carry on its operations, nor would missionaries be detained from their labors for want of funds, but thousands of dollars that are now thrown away in useless extravagance, would roll into the treasury of the Lord & the broad light of christianity would soon dispel the darkness that envelops the heathen world —

I know not what will most interest you & feel almost afraid to write, lest my letter prove unworthy your time or attention but as it is my privilege to be called sister, to one who has devoted herself willing to make sacrifices for Christ, & as I love you & yours for your dear brother's sake, I cannot refrain from writing - Happy should I be to enjoy a personal interview with our dear sister Maria & husband; to ask many questions about your situations, labors, prospects & trials, to inquire in what way (if in any) we can add to your comfort or happiness & give you some account of our dear little family - but as this is impossible I will be thankful we can hear from you by letter & assure you, it is not through our negligence or forgetfulness entirely, that you so seldom hear from us. no. we think much of our missionary friends & correspond with eagerness every new intelligence from that quarter of the globe & we have sent two or 3 long letters to which we have received no answer, but this shall not deter us from writing - I have been reading the November number of the Mothers Magazine it contains much useful instruction to you a mother of young children - I should like to know if any of our dear sisters have ever sent you any numbers of this valuable publication; if they have not I shall send some of mine for I know you will prize them the last contains a letter from Mrs Coan a missionary at the Sand

wich islands in which she deplores the ignorance of native christian mothers & requests a copy of the Mothers Magazine that the missionaries who are mothers, may be taught not only to instruct their own children, but also to teach the native mothers to train their children for usefulness in this world & happiness in the next—
When I feel the weight of care & responsibility resting upon a mother & my ignorance & inability, rightly to discharge the duties devolving upon me, I am ready to exclaim "Who is sufficient for these things"? and when I compare my situation, (surrounded as I am by devotedly pious mothers, by whose experience I can profit, & having in my hands many valuable publications, written expressly for the improvement of those who have the care of children & still feel unable to bear the burden that is thrown upon me) with the missionary mother who desires not only to discharge her duty to her own children, but also to teach the ignorant around her, how to train up their's aright; I do not wonder that Mrs Coan requested Maternal Associations in America to pray especially for the missionaries, & I should not wonder if your heart should sink within you, in view of your situation; but dear sister there is a promise "as thy day thy strength shall be" which is immutable & you can confidently rely upon it— I rejoice that you have been enabled to cast your burden upon the Lord & in all your afflictions to feel that your Father in Heaven doeth all things right— We are anxious to know particulars in regard to your husbands health, will you write us soon? I have forgotten to mention that we have another little son born August 10th 1836 he is a precious sweet babe, just as all children are to their mothers, & we call him Ogden Lewis— Marcus is almost 4 years & an half old & is a good boy at church; he loves his little brother so much that last Sabbath he wanted to come home before service closed because he must see his dear little Ogden—
We received a letter from sister Julia a few days since, they have just returned from Vermont whither they have been on a visit— Mother is in her usual health & brother Preston taking care of the farm & family with the industry, economy & judgment of a man of 40 years; his father is very infirm & to human appearance cannot live long— Br Ogden remains at Hoosick— sister Charlotte's health miserable though better than in the spring; she is exempt from the care of children, knows nothing of a mothers unceasing anxieties, nor feels the responsibilities that press so heavily upon us— December 10th The year is almost gone & our letter is not on the way; as we were yesterday reminded by the arrival of one from yourself & husband for which we thank you & rejoice that Brother's health is improved— I beg you both to spare no pains to preserve health, for sure a missionary's life is valuable & the sixth command requires you to be careful— Husband is teaching a select school of above 40 scholars— it was difficult to obtain a teacher that was just right & our young people were suffering for proper instruction— his people were willing & he get along remarkably I see not why he cannot be a pastor & school teacher as well as missionary com-

Dear Sister Maria - Since you have received so little from us - I do not wonder that you have cast us off - or blotted us out from your list of friends - But by the same I have the presumption to imagine that when you learn the cause, that you will almost - if not altogether feel inclined to give us, at least, a place in your recollection if not in your affections. - Dear Sister - Now I am serious - I never would send such a sentence as the last written to my dearly beloved absent sister without comment - I am unwilling to write on this subject - it would not have had we not suffered for nearly two years, much inquiring on account of the letters you have written us. - When you return & bring around us all our beloved friends - no one is so dear to our hearts as our Sister Maria - But you can imagine something of our feelings when we are constrained to feel - that however dear to us we find our Sister to be - We are remembered by her as having forgotten her - slighted her. - And what evidence has she of this. None we told her so - Have our friends told her so - I do not believe it. - You have received some of our letters - have they breathed an unkindness - forgetfulness - And should you receive them all you would find nothing to convince you that we had forgotten you - And the only evidence you have is this - On the other side of the globe - Thoughts & feelings are expressed - & started off to reach the very spot of ground on which you stand upon the other side of the globe - And because two or three of them slowly & blind travellers - have not reached you - but have wandered to another place, or died on the journey - we are charged with the crime of forgetting our friend - This is the only evidence - And you should not have even this - if we were aware of it - for we are impatient for when we saw these messengers wandering out of the way - Even tho the foaming ocean should swallow them - we would call the storm & drive them to you - & I trust they will all reach your side for we find by Br L's that another has arrived - And never dear Sister I want to tell you I have diminished their feelings - & will never cherish them for a single moment - But God gives us health you shall never have occasion to write as you have written - But I am [illegible] than the sea the winds & the storm - & not a day can [illegible] truth - I regret that I do not have more room is occupied with this - for I wanted to inform you of many things - you needed to know - your own native - land - Darkness is hanging over us as a nation - Fraud has begun to flame - One devoted Minister of the Lord Jesus [illegible] A Stern Elliarovs has been murdered by a mob of ruffians for preaching the cause of the Redeemer - Others are threatened

to do & a babe that requires almost constant attention. I find myself constantly employed— Marcus is learning his letters. he is fond of his book & often gets it & comes to me saying "My dear mother can you spend time to hear me read now"? he is small of his age though if he lives will probably be larger than his Father— he has large black eyes & dark hair, very active & ingenious & needs almost constant watching to be kept from mischief— as he grows older I feel more deeply anxious he should be early converted, I cannot bear the idea of training up children for any thing else but the service of God— this must be the great object of all we do for them; but how many mothers entirely forget this & Educate their children for this world alone— O that we may be kept from such wickedness, & have grace to exercise that faith that will bring them to Christ & ensure their salvation— you have learned by experience that they are not ours, only blessings lent to be returned when called for, then let us be careful not to idolize them— I have filled my paper & your patience will be exhausted— Your affectionate Sister Louisa—

Perrin Esq
Dec 20th

Paid 25

Miss Rev Stephen Johnson
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